

JAN 19 2007

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that older adults, the  
2 population of persons sixty years of age and older, make up a  
3 larger proportion of Hawaii residents than ever before. In  
4 1980, older adults comprised twelve per cent of the State's  
5 total population. In 2000, the population nearly doubled, with  
6 over two hundred seven thousand older adults comprising  
7 seventeen per cent of Hawaii's total population. This trend is  
8 expected to continue. By the year 2020, persons aged sixty and  
9 older will constitute nearly one-third, or thirty per cent, of  
10 Hawaii's adult population. Moreover, the number of persons who  
11 are eighty-five years of age and older is projected to continue  
12 to increase dramatically, from 5,561 in 1980 to 33,800 in 2020.

13           The legislature further finds that the array of publicly-  
14 funded programs and services that serve the older population in  
15 the areas of health care, disability services, insurance, long-  
16 term care, caregiver support, medicaid, medicare, and  
17 institutional and community-based adult care, for example, can



1 be challenging for care recipients, caregivers, and families to  
2 navigate. These programs and services help to meet the multi-  
3 faceted needs of older adults and are provided by various  
4 county, state, federal, private, and not-for-profit entities.  
5 As a central agency, the executive office on aging already  
6 coordinates programs and services available to Hawaii's older  
7 population; however, the scope and magnitude of issues facing  
8 the elderly necessitates department level attention. A  
9 departmental agency could better focus resources and personnel  
10 to address the multi-faceted needs of Hawaii's older population.

11 The purpose of this Act is to establish a task force on  
12 aging to plan for the consolidation of publicly-funded programs  
13 and services that would appropriately fall within the  
14 jurisdiction of a new department of aging.

15 SECTION 2. There is established a task force to be known  
16 as the task force on the department of aging, which shall be  
17 responsible for determining the services and programs that shall  
18 be under the jurisdiction of a new department of aging. The  
19 task force shall be placed within the executive office on aging  
20 and shall cease to exist after July 1, 2008.



1           The executive office on aging and, if necessary, the  
2 department of health shall provide administrative, technical,  
3 and clerical support to the task force.

4           SECTION 3. The task force shall consist of eleven members,  
5 nine of whom shall be appointed, without regard to section 26-  
6 34, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as follows:

- 7           (1) Three by the speaker of the house of representatives;
- 8           (2) Three by the president of the senate; and
- 9           (3) Three by the governor.

10           The tenth member of the task force shall be the executive  
11 director of the executive office on aging. The eleventh member  
12 of the task force shall be a representative of the Hawaii  
13 chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons. The  
14 speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the  
15 senate, and the governor shall select a task force member from  
16 each of the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors  
17 respectively.

18           The chair of the task force shall be the executive director  
19 of the executive office on aging. A majority of the members  
20 shall constitute a quorum. The members shall not receive  
21 compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for  
22 necessary expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the



1 performance of their duties under this Act. Any member of the  
2 task force shall be immune from civil liability, as provided for  
3 under section 26-35.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

4 SECTION 4. The task force shall gather input from Hawaii's  
5 aging network regarding programs and services that would  
6 appropriately fall within the jurisdiction of a new department  
7 of aging and shall submit its findings and recommendations,  
8 including proposed legislation, if necessary, to the legislature  
9 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular  
10 session of 2008. The written report shall include an accounting  
11 of all moneys expended. The executive office on aging shall  
12 assist the task force in preparing the report. The task force  
13 shall cease to exist on June 30, 2008.

14 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ , or so much  
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, to be  
17 used by the task force on aging for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 6. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the  
19 executive office on aging for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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INTRODUCED BY: Will Eyo

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# S.B. NO. 926

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**Report Title:**

Aging; Task Force; Executive Office on Aging

**Description:**

Establishes a task force on the department of aging to determine programs and services that will be under the jurisdiction of a new department of aging. Requires the executive office on aging to lead the task force and submit findings and recommendations to the legislature.

